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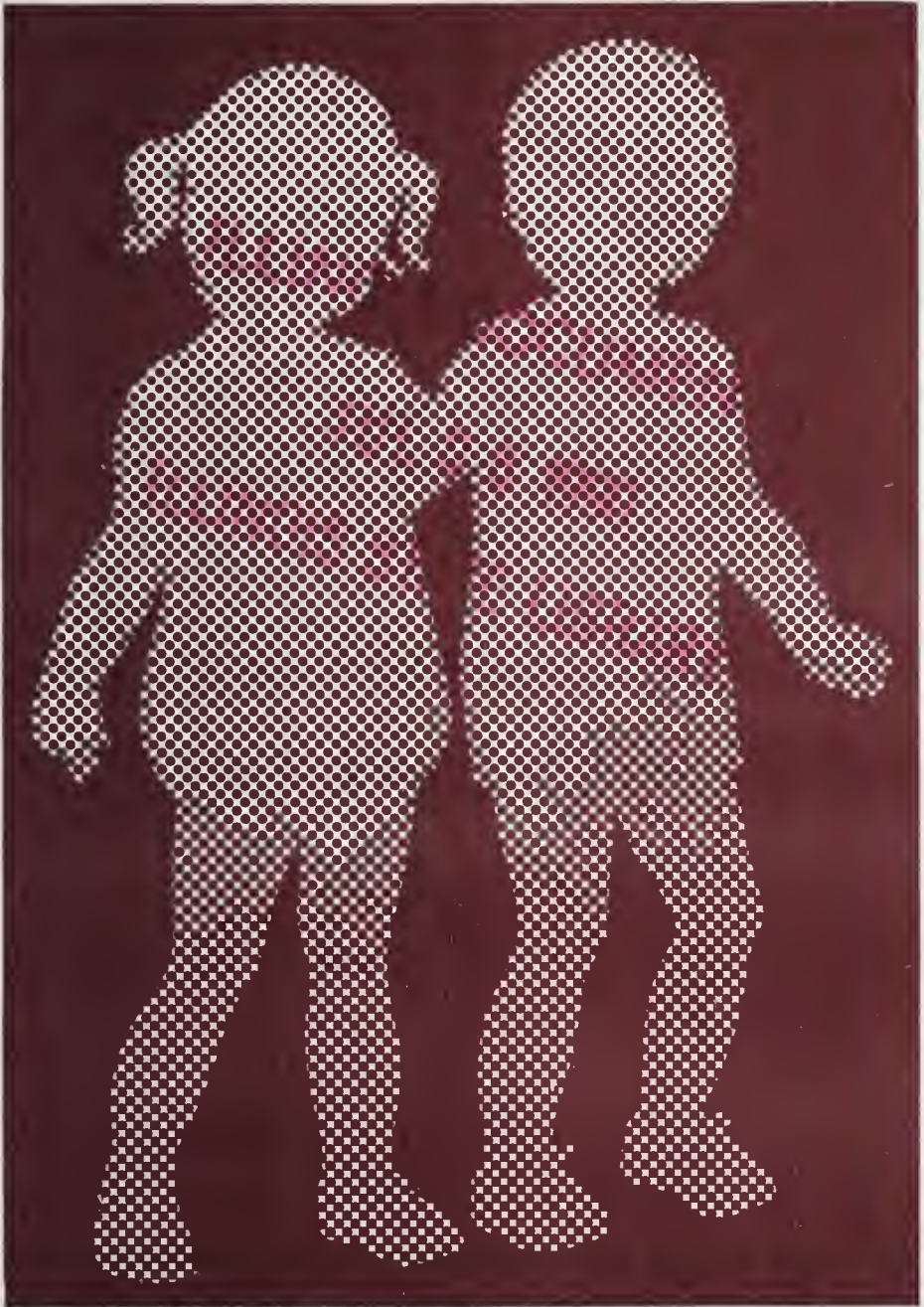
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(SIUE)

Southern Illinois
University
at Edwardsville

THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

C A R E



RAPE & SEXUAL ABUSE
CARE CENTER

THE PROBLEM



Child sexual abuse has reached epidemic proportions. Research indicates that as many as one in four girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused before her/his 18th birthday. Up to 90% of children who are sexually abused are abused by someone they know and trust. The results of this victimization can be far-reaching, affecting the child's social, emotional, physical and intellectual development.

If untreated, victims of child sexual abuse may have difficulties with the issues of shame, trust, intimacy, control, sexuality, depression and self-esteem. They often are unable to experience and express emotions, and may also fear abandonment and betrayal. Additionally, many sexually abused children sexually abuse others.

At the Rape and Sexual Abuse Care Center, counselors work together to guide your child from the pain of victimization to healing and empowerment.

ASSESSMENT



Children through age 18 are seen by counselors at the Center. Initially, a thorough assessment will be performed with your child by counselors who are experts in the area of child sexual abuse. Assessments are specifically designed for your child's age and abilities and incorporate play therapy (when appropriate), art therapy and bibliotherapy. The information obtained through the assessment process will assist the counselor in determining your child's needs and the types of services your child will require. The assessment may take three to four sessions to complete. A counseling plan will then be developed to meet your child's needs. Parents and caretakers will be consulted throughout this process.

REFERRAL



When child sexual abuse is the problem, the Rape and Sexual Abuse Care Center is the appropriate facility. If, during the assessment, the counselor determines there are problems other than child sexual abuse, you will be referred to a resource better equipped to meet your needs. If you are unsure of the appropriate resource for you and your child, please call the Center and request referral information. The Rape and Sexual Abuse Care Center networks with other agencies and individuals in order to provide this service.

SERVICES



Medical Advocacy

When sexual abuse occurs, very often medical concerns arise. If your child is in need of medical attention, either as a result of recent or long-term sexual abuse, Center staff or a trained volunteer will meet your child and you at the hospital and remain with you throughout the medical examination.

Legal Advocacy

As a parent or caretaker, you may need answers to questions concerning the legal process. The Center's advocate can assist you with understanding the criminal court process, the juvenile court process, and direct you if you are considering a civil suit. Because child sexual abuse is against the law, your child may become involved with the police and the court system. The Center staff will prepare your child and you for court and assist you in understanding the law. Staff will also act as a liaison for you and your child with the legal system and will accompany you and your child to police stations and to court.

COUNSELING



The Rape and Sexual Abuse Care Center, located in a tract house on the campus of SIUE, offers a wide variety of therapeutic modalities.

Individual counseling provides your child an opportunity to learn about himself/herself and to integrate his/her experiences. It gives him/her the opportunity to learn to trust, to regain self-esteem, and to learn prevention skills.

Children often recognize and deal with their feelings for the first time during individual counseling. Activities such as role playing, bibliotherapy, art therapy, play therapy, ventilation exercises, and personal safety lessons assist children in healing from child sexual abuse.

Group counseling is a session with two or more children who help each other deal with issues caused by the abuse. Your child may need to socialize; he/she may need to explore and share his/her concerns with others who have similar issues, in order to gain a healthier perspective and to feel he/she is not alone. Group counseling provides your child with an opportunity for this to occur.

Depending on the counseling plan, your child may be seen in a group, or individually, or both.

Family counseling is a session where caretakers and victims meet with the counselor. Your family will be encouraged to participate in your child's counseling. Family sessions are scheduled regularly to monitor progress and facilitate communication within the family.



The 24-hour hotline ensures prompt attention to victim needs.

(618) 692-2197

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NOT JUST FOR KIDS



Often the needs of parents or caretakers are overlooked when child sexual abuse occurs. The children's program recognizes that child victims are not the only family members who are affected by the abuse. Parents or caretakers may become overwhelmed when they are informed of child sexual abuse and may also need to see a counselor for a period of time. Medical concerns, legal concerns, in addition to living arrangements and the reactions of extended family, are just a few of the problems parents or caretakers may have to address. The staff encourages family involvement in counseling and offers a weekly Parent Support Group to assist with these concerns.

MANDATED REPORTING



The staff of the Rape and Sexual Abuse Care Center are mandated reporters and must report any suspected cases of child abuse or child sexual abuse to the Department of Children and Family Services.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

The Rape and Sexual Abuse Care Center provides programs in an effort to educate the general public, as well as professionals who work with children, about the subject of sexual abuse. Through education the Center strives to create a society in which children will be afforded equal rights and will feel safe.

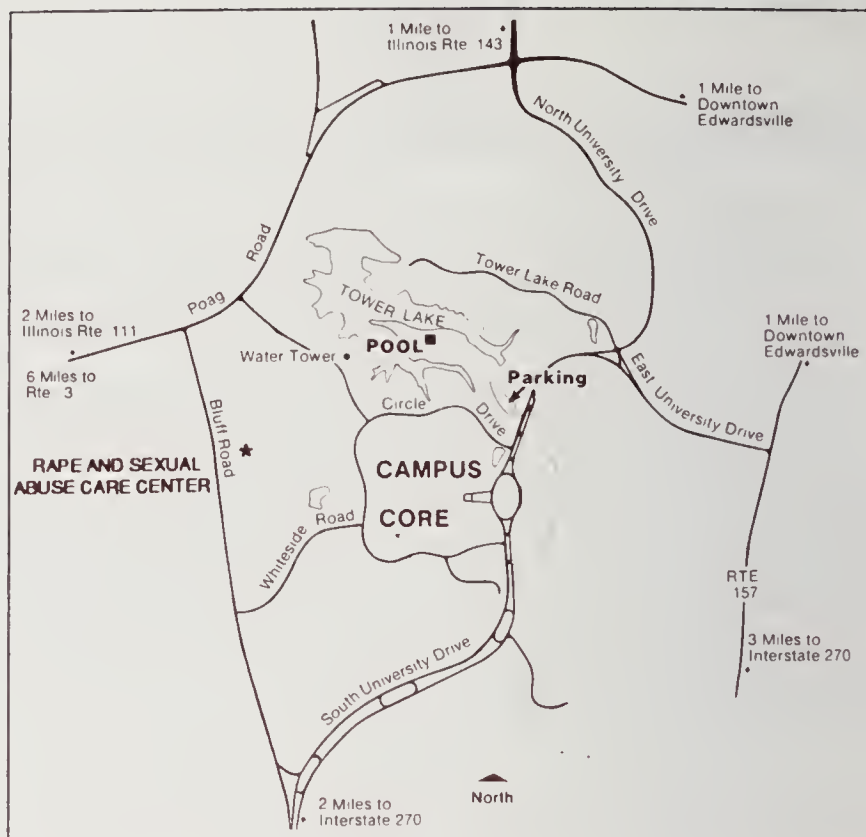
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DONATIONS

There are no fees for services at the Rape and Sexual Abuse Care Center; however, donations are appreciated.

Referrals may be made by

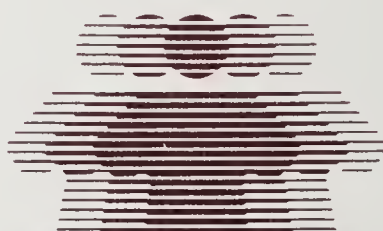
Contacting: Rape and Sexual Abuse Care Center
Box 1154

Southern Illinois University
at Edwardsville
Edwardsville, IL 62026-1154

OR

Calling: (618) 692-2197
24-hour telephone

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